

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listings of Claims:

1. (Original) In an impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle in which an upper column is fitted to a lower column fixed to a car body so as to absorb an impact energy upon a secondary collision while moving said upper column towards a front side of the automotive vehicle,

an improvement characterized in that a low-friction material treatment is effected on one or both of slide surfaces of fitting portions of said two columns.

2. (Original) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said steering column apparatus is of an electric power steering type of a column assist type.

3. (Original) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said steering column apparatus is of an

electric power steering type of a column assist type, and is capable of making a telescopic adjustment.

4. (Original) In an impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle in which an upper column is fitted to a lower column fixed to a car body so as to absorb an impact energy upon a secondary collision while moving said upper column towards a front side of the automotive vehicle,

an improvement characterized in that a sleeve subjected to a low-friction material treatment is interposed between fitting portions of said two columns.

5. (Currently Amended) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 4~~claim 1, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

6. (New) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

7. (New) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.

8. (New) An impact absorbing type steering column apparatus for an automotive vehicle according to claims 4, wherein the low-friction material treatment is one of baking of molybdenum disulfide, baking of fluororesin, baking of a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and fluororesin, coating of a ceramic, a metal soap

treatment, a low-friction plating treatment and coating of a lubricating agent.